

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7073

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POUCHED TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CA, CU

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CANADA-CUBA RELATIONS

REF: OTTAWA 1818

1. SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WAS MADE IN LAST MONTH'S NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND CUBA THAT SCHEDULED SERVICE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD COMMENCE IN THE WINTER OF 1976 AND POSSIBLY EARLIER. THIS VIEW WAS GUARDEDLY EXPRESSED TO TCO ON JUNE 21 BY FULFORD (DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY DIVISION, EXTAFF) WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER THAN TO STATE AGREEMENT WOULD COVER ONLY THIRD AND FOURTH FREEDOM RIGHTS, HE WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE ANY SIGNIFICANT DETAILS OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED AND WHAT REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED. FROM HIS REMARKS WE TOOK AWAY IMPRESSION THAT AIR CANADA WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO FLY FROM ANY CANADIAN POINT TO HAVANA OR VARADERO (LATTER POINT ALREADY RECEIVING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CANADIAN CHARTER TRAFFIC) AND THAT CUBANA WOULD GET RIGHTS TO MONTREAL AND

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POSSIBLY OTTAWA (WITHOUT MUCH EXPECTATION LATTER

POINT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY USED).

2. MOT SOURCES ALSO INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS CONFIRMED ABOVE LOCATIONS TO TCO BUT EMPHASIZED THEIR TENTATIVE STATUS. WERE LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EARLY COMMENCEMENT SERVICE. ONE OFFICIAL INDICATED IT WAS EASY TO RESOLVE THE BASIC COMMERCIAL ASPECT OF THE PROPOSED SERVICE (I.E., THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHARTER TO SCHEDULED TRAFFIC) WHICH HAD BEEN CONSIDERED ESPECIALLY WORRISOME TO CANADIANS (SEE REFAIR) BY AGREEING THAT THE RATE STRUCTURE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BILATERALLY AND WOULD PROVIDE FOR CHARTER COMPETITIVE BULK FARES. THUS, A REASONABLE LOAD FACTOR MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

3. ANOTHER MOT SOURCE SAID THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT AIRWORTHINESS ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED. GOC IS NOT PREPARED TO OPEN CANADIAN AIRPORT TO THE IL-16, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN CUBANA'S FLEET, SINCE IT WAS BUILT BEFORE THE USSR JOINED ICAO AND THEREFORE LACK PROPER CERTIFICATION. FURTHERMORE, THIS AIRCRAFT TYPE WAS INVOLVED IN A SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT GANDER SOME YEARS AGO AND GOC TAKES AN ESPECIALLY DIM VIEW OF IT. AS A RESULT CUBANA MAY HAVE TO LEASE PROPERLY CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT TO OPERATE INTO CANADA AND GOC IS CONCERNED OVER THE NATURE OF THE LEASES. POINTS RELEVANT TO THESE LEASES HAVE YET TO BE RESOLVED.

4. FROM ALL SOURCES TCO GOT IMPRESSION THAT WHILE NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, THERE IS AN EXPECTATION THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL. JOHNSON

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